

SURROUNDED

SCRIPTURE:

...So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the Lord opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha... (2 Kings 6: 8-23).

MATERIALS LIST:

(1) Ant Killer

MAIN MESSAGE:

We do not have to fight the battle against sin alone!

SONG: "Surround Us Lord"

LESSON:

In Florida, the Red Imported Fire Ant is one nasty insect. Once a mound can be seen above ground, it can hold hundreds of thousands of ants. When an ant bites, the sting will hurt for a long time. Having a wet yard in Florida leaves me constantly battling ants by surrounding the ant bed with bait. The ant finds the granule and hopefully takes it to the queen to eat, but generally it is just a set back and I end up chasing the same group of ants from one mound to another.

The young man in 2 Kings 6 may have felt like a homeowner surrounded by ants when he stepped outside one morning to see enemies surrounding his city. Upon alerting Elisha, he was told "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them. So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha (2 Ki 6:16-17 ESV). How exciting it must have been to see a physical presence of the Lord's army there to protect His people!

Because we are living in a fallen world, we are surrounded by temptation and sin. After fighting off temptation, we may turn to fight another battle. It can seem a daunting task, but the Lord promises to take care of us (Matt 7:7-11)! David wrote "You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance "(Ps 32:7 ESV) and another psalmist wrote "As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people from this time forth and forever (Psalms 125:2). We may not have an army of fiery horses and chariots, but he still surrounds us today.

PRAYER: Thank you God for watching over us and protecting us. Let us always lean upon you for support and guidance.